

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Scott Hunt
State Forester

Office of the State Forester

Arizona State Forestry Division

1110 W. Washington St., Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-1400



April 24, 2013

This request is approved for lodging in excess of policy limits not to exceed the Federal reimbursement rate for the area through December 2014 for those individuals involved in fire suppression activities. Requests for lodging exceptions for all other non-fire emergency response activities must be submitted on a case by case basis. Please attach a copy of this approval to the travel claims for audit purposes.

D. Clark Partridge
State Comptroller
Department of Administration
100 North 15th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85007

D. Clark Partridge 4-26-13
D. Clark Partridge Date
State Comptroller

Dear Mr. Partridge:

The Arizona State Forester's Office, Forestry Division wishes to be allowed to reimburse Cooperating Fire Departments/Districts, and the firefighters they employ, as well as our own employees, for the lodging costs incurred while supporting out – of – state federal incidents in accordance with the federal travel regulations of the General Services Administration (GSA). This request is for the calendar year 2013 and 2014 fire season.

Reimbursing at the federal rates for out – of – state incidences will greatly simplify the logistics of housing intermingled local/federal resources in the remote locates. Federal incident management teams regularly provide care for hundreds of interagency firefighters, but rarely, if ever secure hotels that recognize the state allowed rates. The individual firefighters are unable to provide for their own support needs, and they must accept the accommodations secured for them by the federal incident management teams.

The result is often that the firefighters who are employed by the State of Arizona, or local fire departments, but mobilized by the State Forester's Office are not fully compensated when returning to their duty stations. The State however is fully reimbursed by the U.S. Forest Service and/or Department of the Interior for these travel lodging costs, and reimbursing the firefighters from local fire departments/districts at the federal lodging rates will not cost the state anything, but will ensure they are fairly treated while on assignment and after.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Scott Hunt

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